

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently amended) A suture anchor, comprising:

a bioabsorbable anchor body having a proximal end and a distal end; [[and]]

a suture eyelet formed of a strand of a first suture insert-molded into the bioabsorbable anchor body ~~for receiving a second, knot-tying suture threaded through the suture eyelet~~, the suture eyelet being disposed completely within the anchor body, the first insert-molded suture having an intertwined shape to increase the pullout strength of the suture from the anchor body, and

a second suture threaded through the suture eyelet and passing slidingly through the eyelet, for tying tissue to bone.

2. (Previously presented) The suture anchor of claim 1, wherein the suture anchor has a predetermined length and wherein the suture eyelet is recessed from the proximal end of the anchor body by about one third of the predetermined length.

3. (Previously presented) The suture anchor of claim 1, wherein the anchor body is provided with a drive socket at the proximal end, and the suture eyelet is disposed within the drive socket.

4. (Previously presented) The suture anchor of claim 3, wherein the drive socket has at least one slot for receiving a corresponding protrusion on a driver head for driving the suture anchor.

5. (Currently amended) A suture anchor, comprising:

a bioabsorbable anchor body having a proximal end, a distal end, and a drive socket at the proximal end; [[and]]

a suture eyelet formed of a strand of a first suture insert-molded into the bioabsorbable anchor body ~~for receiving a second, knot-tying suture threaded through the suture eyelet~~, the suture eyelet being disposed completely within the anchor body, the first insert-molded suture having an intertwined shape to increase the pullout strength of the suture from the anchor body,

wherein the drive socket has at least one slot for receiving a corresponding protrusion on a driver head for driving the suture anchor and wherein the slot terminates distally in a suture hole provided within the anchor body, and

a second suture threaded through the suture eyelet and passing slidingly through the eyelet, for tying tissue to bone.

6. (Previously presented) The suture anchor of claim 5, wherein the suture eyelet is transverse to a longitudinal axis of the anchor body.

Claim 7. (Canceled)

8. (Original) The suture anchor of claim 1, wherein the anchor body is threaded from the proximal end to the distal end.

9. (Original) The suture anchor of claim 1, wherein the anchor body has a constant outer diameter and a tapered inner diameter.

10. (Original) The suture anchor of claim 9, where the taper of the inner diameter is a stepped taper.

11. (Currently amended) An insert-molded suture anchor, comprising:

a bioabsorbable anchor body having a longitudinal axis, a proximal end and a distal end, the anchor body being threaded between the proximal end and the distal end;

a drive socket provided at the proximal end; [[and]]

a suture loop disposed completely within the drive socket of the anchor body ~~for receiving a knot-tying suture threaded through the suture loop~~, the suture loop being formed of a strand of suture insert-molded into the anchor body, the insert-molded suture having an intertwined shape to increase the pullout strength of the suture from the anchor body, and

a second suture threaded through the suture loop and passing slidingly through the suture loop, for tying tissue to bone.

12. (Original) The insert-molded suture anchor of claim 11, wherein the suture loop is recessed from the proximal end of the anchor body by about one third the length of the anchor body.

13. (Original) The insert-molded suture anchor of claim 11, wherein the drive socket has at least one slot for receiving a correspondingly shaped protrusion on a driver.

14. (Original) The insert-molded suture anchor of claim 11, wherein the anchor thread extending between the proximal end and the distal end of the body has a crest which tapers from wide to narrow from the proximal end to the distal end of the body.

Claim 15. (Canceled)

16. (Original) The insert-molded suture anchor of claim 13, wherein the anchor body is threaded.

17. (Original) The insert-molded suture anchor of claim 11, wherein the threaded anchor body has a substantially constant outer diameter and a tapered inner diameter.

18. (Original) The insert-molded suture anchor of claim 17, wherein the taper of the inner diameter is a stepped taper.

19. (Previously presented) The insert-molded suture anchor of claim 11, wherein the suture loop is a suture eyelet.